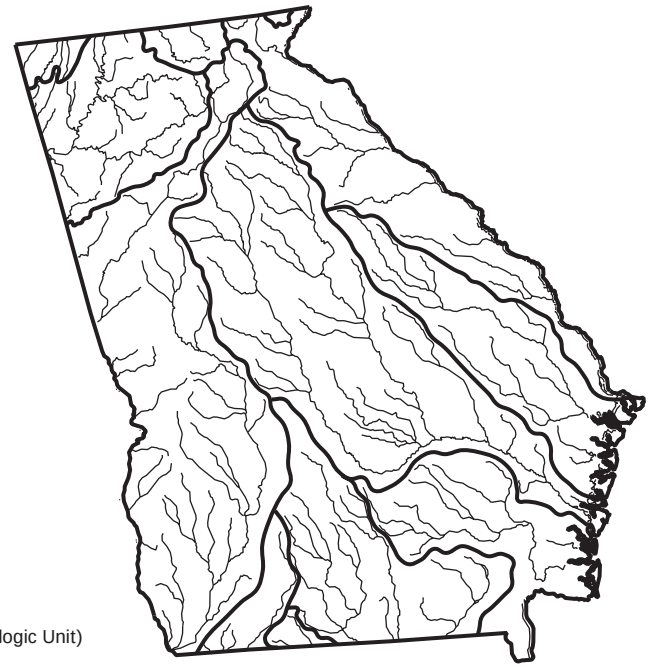
Georgia



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Georgia 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Improvements in wastewater treatment by industries and municipalities have made it possible for Georgians to fish and swim in areas where water quality conditions were unacceptable for decades. Water quality in Georgia streams, lakes, and estuaries during 1994 and 1995 was good, but the number of stream miles and lake acres not fully supporting designated uses increased. Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reassessed all fish contamination mercury data and added reduced consumption guidelines in 1996 for a number of lakes and streams that had no restrictions in 1995. Persistent problems include mud, litter, bacteria, pesticides, fertilizers, metals, oils, suds, and other pollutants washed into rivers and lakes by stormwater.

Ground Water Quality

Georgia's ambient Ground Water Monitoring Network consists of 133 wells sampled periodically. To date, increasing nitrate concentrations in the Coastal Plain are the only adverse trend detected by the monitoring network, but nitrate concentrations are still well below harmful levels in most wells. Additional nitrate sampling in over 5,000 wells since 1991 revealed that nitrate concentrations exceeded EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in less than 1% of the tested wells. Pesticide monitoring indicates that pesticides do not threaten Georgia's drinking water aquifers at this time.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Comprehensive river basin management planning will provide a basis for integrating point and nonpoint source water protection efforts within the State and with neighboring States. In 1992, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 637, which requires the Department of Natural Resources to develop

management plans for each river basin in the State. The law requires that the Chattahoochee and Flint River Basin Plans be completed by December 1997, and the Coosa and Oconee River Basin Plans be completed by December 1998. Georgia is also participating in a Tri-State Comprehensive Study with the Corps of Engineers, Alabama, and Florida to develop interstate agreements for maintaining flow and allocating assimilative capacity. Other interstate basin projects include the Savannah Watershed Project with South Carolina and the Suwannee River Basin Planning Project with the Georgia and Florida Soil Conservation Services.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The number of fixed monitoring stations statewide was reduced in order to focus resources for sampling and analysis in a particular group of basins in any one year in accordance with the basin planning schedule. Georgia also sampled toxic substances in effluent from point source dischargers, streams, sediment, and fish tissues at selected sites throughout the State.

Individual Use Support in Georgia

Designated Use[a]		Percent				
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 70,150)[b]						
	Total Miles Surveyed					
	8,197	45	-	31	23	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8,197	45	-	31	23	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 425,382)						
	Total Acres Surveyed					
	397,617	46	-	32	23	-
	364,664	22	-	78	0	-
	417,617	95	-	5	0	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 854)						
	Total Square Miles Surveyed					
	854	96	-	4	0	-
	850	98	-	0	2	-
	773	35	-	46	18	-
	853	100	-	<1	0	-

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Georgia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.